

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to be as follows:

Claims 1-3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (original): A movable membrane for light modulation, comprising:
a substantially circular optically active portion; and
a released membrane portion surrounding the circular optically active portion, wherein:
the substantially circular optically active portion includes a plurality of gaps configured to expose a lower surface.

Claim 5 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 4, wherein:
the substantially circular optically active portion remains substantially flat while deflected.

Claim 6 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 5, wherein:
an area of the lower surface exposed through the plurality of gaps is substantially equal to an upper surface area.

Claim 7 (original): The movable membrane for light modulation of claim 5, wherein:
an optical energy of the lower surface exposed through the plurality of gaps is substantially equal to an upper surface optical energy.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A micro electromechanical system (MEMS) device capable of light modulation, the device comprising:
a membrane configured to be controllably deflected;

a support structure configured to support the membrane;
~~a substantially circular~~ an optically-active portion of the membrane that is reflective and configured to be illuminated;
a non-optically-active portion of the membrane between the optically-active portion and the support structure; and
a plurality of gaps in the optically-active portion of the membrane.

Claim 9 (original): The device of claim 8, further comprising:
a substrate below the membrane having reflective areas under the plurality of gaps.

Claim 10 (original): The device of claim 9, wherein the non-optically-active membrane portion is substantially larger in area than the optically-active membrane portion.

Claim 11 (original): The device of claim 10, wherein the optically-active membrane portion bends less than the non-optically-active membrane portion when the membrane is controllably deflected.

Claim 12 (original): The device of claim 11, wherein the optically-active membrane portion remains substantially flat when the membrane is controllably deflected.

Claim 13 (original): The device of claim 9, wherein the gaps in the optically-active membrane portion are configured so that substantially equal optical energies are reflected from the membrane and from the substrate below the membrane.

Claim 14 (original): The device of claim 13, wherein both the optically-active membrane portion and the reflective areas under the gaps are covered with a same reflective material.

Claim 15 (original): The device of claim 14, wherein the reflective material comprises aluminum.

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Claim 16 (original): The device of claim 8, wherein the membrane comprises a compliant material from a group of compliant materials including polymeric materials, metals, polycrystalline materials, and amorphous materials.

Claim 17-20 (cancelled)